

Tsitsi Dangarembga addresses IPA General Assembly

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Booker-nominated author spoke about the importance of international cooperation



The International Publishers Association General Assembly took place on 23 November, revealing the results of the association's elections alongside a Covid-19 stocktaking report and speeches from UN secretary general António Guterres and Booker shortlisted author Tsitsi Dangarembga.

The Covid-19 stocktaking report, *From Response to Recovery: The impact of Covid-19 on the Global Publishing Industry*, was based on interviews with 33 IPA members from across the world. President-elect Bodour Al Qasimi said: "I want to thank all of those members who contributed to our Post-Covid report. It provides in-depth information on what members are doing to weather the pandemic and leverage points for IPA action. One of the key themes that emerged is how the publishing industry ecosystem, not just publishers but booksellers, libraries and many others, came together to keep books in the hands of readers. Building on this theme, the IPA is planning to convene a multi-stakeholder taskforce to develop a global publishing industry plan."

In her speech, Dangarembga spoke about 'the responsibility of publishers to ensure a diverse and sustainable future and how international cooperation was particularly essential to overcome the challenges to freedom of expression in many countries around the world', saying: "It is my strong belief, that successful international cooperation in publishing and in the creative industries in general, can be very effective in contributing to overcome structural impediments to freedom of expression."

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